



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

SKELLS

Atty. Ref.: 36-1432; Confirmation No. 7296

Appl. No. 09/830,983

TC/A.U. 2157

Filed: May 3, 2001

Examiner: Y. Dalencourt

For: NETWORK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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September 9, 2005

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

In response to the final Office Action dated 04/21/2005, reconsideration of this application is requested in light of the following remarks.

The rejection of claims 13-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being made "obvious" based on Srisuresh '431 in view of Veerina et al. '379 is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention is directed towards network management wherein data elements (e.g., packets) may be deflected to an alternate destination (e.g., to achieve load balancing) with the reply coming back from that alternate destination to the original source in a manner that is completely transparent to the originator of the original data element (e.g., so as to not possibly trigger an error condition).

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